



**Baltic Sea Region  
MSP Data Expert Sub-Group  
12<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**DECISIONS**

**Venue: Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation  
(Ministerstwo Gospodarki Morskiej i Żeglugi Śródlądowej)**

General:

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> Baltic MSP Forum together with the 4<sup>th</sup> MSP Global forum and Pan Baltic Scope Final Conference will take place on November 19-21, 2019 in Riga. There is an intention to present Baltic MSP web-map for MSP output data (so called BASEMAPS, elaborated within Baltic LINES and Pan Baltic Scope projects, hosted by HELCOM) in the Forum.
2. Capacity4MSP has been approved and will work on following data related issues: user guide and visualization material of BASEMAPS available for MSP data providers, planners and other users in the BSR. The user guide will explain systematically how to use the basic input data functions of BASEMAPS, especially its admin panel. The admin panel is the tool to add or updated datasets and it is important that data providers use it on a common basis. The visualization material will consist of a short video displaying some examples on how to use the basic functions of BASEMAPS such as browsing, adding or updating data. This content will support the work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Data group and will be also presented in a thematic workshop on data sharing through the Work Package 3 (GoA 3.1) as well as during a Planners Forum (GoA 3.2). Both of these events will bring relevant input to adjust the content of the user guide and the interactive presentation to ensure and support their uses by MSP practitioners, stakeholders and data providers. Project manager Ms. Inga Jekabsone ([inga.jekabsone@vasab.org](mailto:inga.jekabsone@vasab.org)) has started work in VASAB Secretariat.
3. Joni presented achievements of the Data group to the “Data for MSP” workshop organized by EASME in Brussels on October 3-4. Outcomes that were presented and discussed:
  - HELCOM-VASAB Guidelines on transboundary MSP output data structure in the Baltic Sea with its key output - data model for MSP Plan area and MSP output data and related terms and codelists.
  - Possibilities and challenges of harmonizing Input data and Output data;
  - BASEMAPS was demonstrated with current data content, showing draft plans and the sea use data therein as specified in the guideline, it was discussed whether the same kind of approach as applied in BASEMAPS and Data group could be applicable in other regional seas in Europe. It was concluded that it could be, given that regional cooperation is in place and common agreement and initiative to harmonize MSP output data.
4. MSP Data Experts Sub-group (hereafter - Data Group) members introduced with latest developments concerning the data issues (“tour de table”):
  - a. **Denmark:** Work on the first draft of MSP continues. The consultation process should start at the end of the year, but probably will be postponed to next summer. Tender for the digital plan has concluded and offers are under evaluation. The digital plan will be the legislation, therefore the portal has to be build, it is challenging as you have to ensure the security behind the system. It has to clearly

distinguish whether data is binding or for information. It also has to explain how MSP is legally binding, and has to be accessible for people with disabilities. In long term there is an intention to transfer this system to land planning as well.

- b. **Estonia:** draft solution of MSP and public data are published on the Data portal (the EST MSP portal in English: <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/en.html>; webmap: <http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/eskiislahendus-en.html>). Data portal also includes different layers of input data, versatile uses are possible. Functionality of the webmap – if clicked on the objects in the map, more information on them can be obtained. Work is continued with the main solution, it is planned to publish it in the beginning of the next year, notification will be sent when main solution will be published. Text of MSP will be available in English. At this point only interactive web map is available, web service will be considered only after adoption of the plan. It is intended to adopt the plan until the end of next year.
- c. **Finland:** A public consultation is planned next spring, indicatively on May. International consultation is also foreseen before summer. ArcGIS pro is used for drafting the plans. Drafting work is in the starting point and first version of markings is developed. Planners will have some input data on the template. There will be a general map, not legally binding.
- d. **Germany:** Germany has officially started the revision process of plans. It has to be carried out until summer 2021, aligned with the mandate of the current parliament. There has been a delay in starting revision process therefore the schedule will be tight. Besides general baseline, revision will include status report and evaluation of the existing plan. More activities that before are foreseen. This week organizing thematic workshops with representatives from mineral resources industry and administration, cultural heritage sector, 2 workshops with North & Baltic Sea fisheries, national defense. It is foreseen to produce several pre- drafts in the beginning of next year, to be able to look into different priorities and how they work out with other activities. International meetings are planned – one for North Sea and one for Baltic Sea, national meetings as well. Regarding data upload – no additional data to be used. The plan itself will probably have more designations. An important topic is how to depict fisheries measures in the MSP. Linear structures are aligned among EEZ and federal states and basic coherence is achieved. Site development plan published at the end of June at the geosea portal (<https://www.geoseaportal.de/mapapps/resources/apps/meeresnutzung/index.html?lang=de> under the use of the sea (Meeresnutzung).
- e. **Lithuania:** Has had the first international consultation on their comprehensive plan took place on October 3, 2019.
- f. **Latvia:** Plan was adopted on May 15. Currently discussions on how to bring the solutions from MSP to local level are ongoing. A workshop together with Estonia was organised – local municipalities discussed in detail what are needs for planning on a local level in coastal areas. By the end of this year it is planned to publish MSP in geo data portal, ToRs for publishing ready.

- g. **Poland:** in June final consultation meeting summing up the Polish MSP took place. There are two issues still to be solved: cooperation with Sweden - a workshop on cumulative impacts on the birds on the Middle Bank is to be organized and negotiations with Polish navy on new navy polygons. If these changes are significant, consultations have to be repeated. ESPOO process hasn't been carried out yet and will be started, if the 2 cases are solved. On the map service – Polish current MSP is available on website: <https://mapy.umgd.gov.pl/pzp/home/>. Poland will have more than one plan – for example smaller plans for ports and lagoons.
  - h. **Russia:** As part of Capacity4MSP project, Russian MSP Roadmap for the Baltic Sea will be produced. Two Russian partners - ErmakNW and RSHU - are involved in the project.
  - i. **Sweden:** hearing has finished in the beginning of summer. Currently taking in and collecting all the comments, minor amendments carried out in the plan and maps. In December handing the plan as a suggestion to the Government for decision.
5. Two examples of geo data portals were looked at during the meeting: Barrents Watch (<https://kart.barentswatch.no/>) and Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (<https://geoportal.arctic-sdi.org/>).

#### Outcomes:

- 6. Data group should be regularly updated on the data related and other relevant activities within Capacity4MSP project.
- 7. Spatial plan areas have been updated according to the latest information that has been provided to the HELCOM Secretariat. It is agreed that, for better user experience, borders of the spatial plan areas can be simplified for Germany and Denmark.
- 8. Amendments of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Data group have been agreed by the Data group and will be provided to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG for approval in upcoming meeting (28-29 October, 2019). BASEMAPS has been added to ToRs as the existing data infrastructure and platform to publish up to date MSP output data. Expected tasks regarding input data have been amended not to exceed mandate of the Data group. Main focus of the Data group further on should be on output data.
- 9. Based on the outcome of the previous meeting, Joni sent a describing text about BASEMAPS on 25.04.2019 explaining that BASEMAPS could continue to serve as platform for the Data group, providing actual information on input data and up-to-date output data. Comparing to the excel table where the input data was collected so far, BASEMAPS provides an opportunity to view data and allows more convenient accessibility to data. According to the INSPIRE directive, it should be possible to access all national data via national geoportals. Even without knowing the data provider, it should be possible to find the national data using key words, but it is not always possible. Regards to MSP, countries interpret data differently. Although BASEMAPS is an excellent concept, it has to be kept in mind that there are still challenges in maintaining the platform, lack of resources and no clear responsibilities to ensure regular updating of the data. Scope of input data is one of the tasks mentioned in the ToRs, however there are many challenges to update the excel table or input data on BASEMAPS. It is suggested to provide explanation on why are the contributions of the Data

group limited regarding MSP input data. Still, it could be considered on what could be done by the Data Group. There are a lot of benefits of BASEMAPS that should be highlighted.

10. HELCOM FISH Group has expressed interest to cooperate with HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and has asked for additional information on what fisheries data is needed in national MSP to identify common requirements for aggregated fisheries data. A HELCOM FISH Fisheries Data Subgroup has been established mainly concentrating on HELCOM indicators, including Baltic Sea Impact Index. The intention of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG was to understand what is needed to plan fisheries accurate. Two main topics were identified on transboundary contest– where countries fish outside their borders and what are the essential fish habitats. ICES together with HELCOM have maps on fishery activity by gear and essential fish habitats maps have been produced as part of the Pan Baltic Scope project. There is a general need to update the information on fisheries data (annex to the 1<sup>st</sup> Data group report), as the information is outdated. It is proposed to discuss in HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG if elaboration of a map of areas where fishing is taking place outside the national borders would be of transnational importance.
11. Almost final version of BASEMAPS MSP Output data has been prepared. It includes 3 sections: plan area, view planned sea uses, query sea uses: all or by specific type. Feedback provided by the Data group has been taken into account.
12. To add data to BASEMAPS administration panel has to be used. A new section has been added to the administration panel - MSP output, where it is possible to validate MSP output sea uses data. This validator works with shapefiles and WFS's. Shapefiles validator is implemented and has been successfully tested in BASEMAPS in Latvia, Poland and Sweden. WFS validator is still under construction and the best solution is looked for. It has been tested with Polish and Latvian data, and it was only partly working.
13. It was agreed that MSP output data in Shapefiles are validated according to following rules:
  - **File validation:**
    - 1 - Data should be in ZIP archive.
    - 2 - ZIP archive should contain valid ESRI Shapefile(s). All files should be placed on one file hierarchy level (no folders allowed within ZIP archive). Required are files with extensions: "shp", "shx", "dbf". Allowed are files with extensions: "shp", "shx", "dbf", "sbn", "sbx", "fbn", "fbx", "ain", "aih", "atx", "ixs", "mxs", "prj", "xml", "cpg".
  - **Dataset validation (checked if above rules are met):**
    - 3 - Spatial reference should be defined.
    - 4 - Dataset should be with polygon geometry.
    - 5 - "priority", "reserved", "allowed", "restricted", "forbidden", "useDsc", "PlanID" fields should be present in the dataset.
  - **Feature validation (checked if above rules are met):**
    - 6 - Empty geometries should not be included.
    - 7 - At least 1 of 5 fields ("priority", "reserved", "allowed", "restricted", "forbidden") should have a value.
    - 8 - "priority", "reserved", "allowed", "restricted", "forbidden" fields should have value(s) according SeaUse code list\* (multiple comma separated values are allowed).
    - 9 - If "forbidden" field has a value, then "priority", "reserved", "allowed", "restricted"

fields should not have that value.

10 - If "restricted" field has a value, then "priority", "reserved", "allowed", "forbidden" fields should not have that value.

11 - "PlanID" field should have a value.

14. During the discussions other amendments for data validation were identified and agreed:
  - a. It is agreed to have more layers than SeaUse in validated ZIP file and WFSes, still validator will check only SeaUse.
  - b. It is agreed that before V.3.0 of WFS is officially released, V.2.0 is to be used for publishing services to be used in BASEMAPS.
  - c. It is agreed to use only polygons in BASEMAPS to make it the most user friendly. The points and lines can be in the data sets, but an automatic polygon will be created by applying a 500 m buffer.
  - d. Spatial Plan Extent - Validation rule for spatial Sea Uses location – bounding box of all plan areas merged plus 50 km buffer.
15. Next step after Data validation is the Data upload. There are two types of uploads – first time data upload and later updates. At the first time data upload will be manual, after that it can be automatized. WFS validation and replacement will be carried out according to PlanID attribute. It is agreed that during upload only “replace all” option will be available to avoid duplicating the data. Before every upload country data backup is saved on HELCOM server. It provides possibility to restore previous data after upload.
16. Disclaimer should be added to BASEMAPS – BASEMAPS is a visualized picture of national MSP, not the MSP itself. For viewing national MSP relevant link should be added (preferably English versions). For the input data – there should be a disclaimer that the data has not been updated since 2017.
17. If a link to available MSP GIS data services / applications has changed or is added, up to date information has to be sent to Liene (liene.gaujeniete@vasab.org). - Links to all the services in are published on VASAB webpage (as part of the document “[National MSP Focal points](#)”).
18. Attributes of the plan areas might change quite often, therefore, it is suggested to elaborate a dedicated shapefile or WFS for MSP Plan area.
19. It is agreed to make changes in the legend - rename “multi use areas” to “more than one use areas”. It is suggested to move the “more than one use” higher in the legend and use white color for it.
20. Very detailed step-by-step guidance to use BASEMAPS to upload output data is developed. Instructions are prepared as pdf and also as short videos. Data group acknowledged the elaborated tool. Videos could be uploaded on the HELCOM YouTube channel. It was suggested by the group to have 2 guidebooks – one for broader public, another one for the admins as well as to prepare two sections of FAQs –for input and output data.

#### Tasks and next steps:

21. Kristīne will present the updated ToRs to the HELCOM-VASAM MSP WG in their next Meeting.
22. Kristīne will present the discussion on fisheries data from this meeting to 19<sup>th</sup> HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> October.

23. HELCOM will add the updated validation rules in the BASEMAPS and carry out other amendments that were agreed during this meeting.

24. Further discussion on usage of BASEMAPS and especially input data is to be organized:

- a. *By the end of November a concept note on BASEMAPS and its added value is prepared and sent to all experts (Kristīne & HELCOM)*
- b. *All countries consult on national level about their capacity and possible input by mid-January and send their feedback to Kristine & Liene & Joni*
- c. *A draft roadmap for future work with input data within BASEMAPS is prepared for the next meeting (Kristine & HELCOM)*
- d. *The roadmap is to be discussed in next data group and finalized to be presented to the 20th meeting of H-V MSP WG in April*

Future meetings:

25. Next meeting will be hosted by Latvia and will take place in Riga in second week of February 2020 (10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> of February).

26. Data group members are invited to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baltic/ 4<sup>th</sup> Global MSP Forum that will take place in Riga on 19-21 November where BASEMAPS will be presented.